



E. MIEDEMA & SONS, INC.

BUCK CREEK BRAND PRODUCE

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To whom it may concern;

Our farm is very concerned about the 2 bills that Representative Agema introduced on E-verify. We are struggling to find enough help willing to work on our farm now without the new bill.

We are a family farm that grows about 1500 acres of vegetables that need to be harvested or packed by hand. This requires approx.. 100 workers for a 2 to 3 month period. We have worked with Mich. Works and other agencies to find anybody willing to work out in the fields but are always short about 10 people.

Agriculture is one of the few bright spots in Michigan and E-verify could have unintended consequences. In Georgia it caused severe hardship to growers that we do business with. A lot of produce was left in the field unpicked due to a shortage of help. This happened even before the law was in place.

Michigan relies on roughly 40,000-45,000 migrant workers each year. This is a significant seasonal workforce vital to maintaining Michigan's second largest industry. E-verify legislation is also being considered at the federal level. While this action is also a concern, it would level the playing field among states. Federal legislators are also trying to develop a viable quest worker program that would work concurrently with E-verify to address potential worker shortages.

We feel that Federal immigration reform is key to solving the problem of homeland or border security. Enforcement without a companion quest worker program will create significant challenges in the agricultural labor market. Working at the federal level seems to be the best way to work toward a workable agricultural quest worker program.

Sincerely

Dave Miedema, President

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